CIVIL WAR™

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A MARVEL COMICS® EVENT IN SEVEN PARTS

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A Superhuman Registration Act has been passed which requires all people possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government. Those who do not register are considered criminals. Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society and a reasonable request. Others view the Act as an assault on their civil liberties. After being called upon to hunt down fellow heroes in defiance of the Registration Act, Captain America goes underground and forms a resistance movement.

After a brutal battle, Bill Foster--the anti-registration hero known as Goliath--has been killed. Other members of Captain America's resistance have been captured and brought to the pro-registration faction's holding facility in the Negative Zone. Both sides have retreated in order to regroup and plan their next move.

Many heroes have been left injured, discouraged and questioning where they stand. While some of Captain America's allies have joined with Tony Stark, Spider-Man is beginning to question his loyalty to Iron Man—and the Invisible Woman and the Human Torch have left the pro-registration side and gone in search of Cap's underground, officially breaking up the Fantastic Four.

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CIVIL WAR No. 5, November, 2006. Published Monthly except semi-monthly in July, August, September, October, November and December by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. © 2006 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $3.75 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand; Canadian Agreement #40668537. **Printed in Canada.** ALAN FINE, President & CEO Of Marvel Toys and Marvel Publishing, Inc.; DAVID BOGART, VP Of Publishing Operations; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIEL, Managing Editor; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Malmone, Advertising Director, at jmalmone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

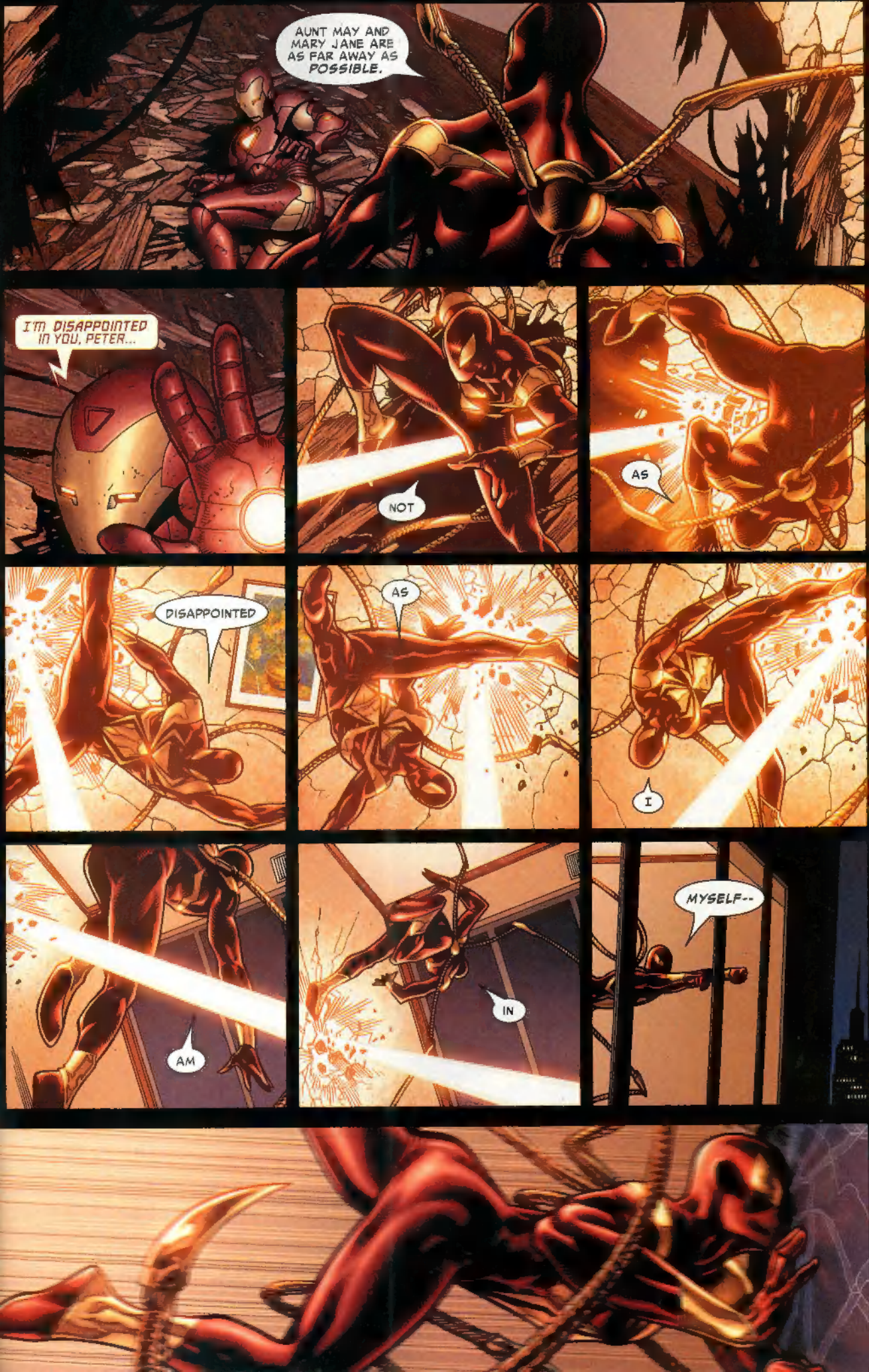
NEW YORK CITY:
EASY, SIS! I GOT YOU!
CONTROL, THIS IS S.H.I.E.L.D. TEAM FOUR. INVISIBLE WOMAN IS NOW BEING AIDED BY THE HUMAN TORCH.

ALL UNITS STAY IN PURSUIT! THEY'RE HEADING DOWNTOWN PAST EAST 40TH AND STRAIGHT INTO TEAMS NINE AND ELEVEN!
SUE! MAKE US INVISIBLE! NOW!
HOLY CRAP!
S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER:
IT HAS TO BE SAID: FLOODING THE STREETS WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS HAS MADE AN ENORMOUS IMPACT ON CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.
OUR BOYS KEEP THIS UP AND WE MIGHT NOT EVEN NEED THOSE NEW THUNDERBOLTS.
COMMANDER HILL WANTS A SIT-REP ON STORM AND RICHARDS, S.H.I.E.L.D. TEAM NINE. YOU NAILED THESE CLOWNS YET?
TWO MINUTES, CONTROL.
SWITCHING TO INFRA-RED...

STARK TOWER:
EXIT
NIGHTHAWK! STATURE! CAN I JUST SAY HOW GRATEFUL WE ARE THAT YOU GUYS ARE JOINING THE PRO-REGISTRATION CAMP?
COULDN'T HAVE BEEN EASY JUST WALKING AWAY FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA LIKE THAT.
ACTUALLY, IT WAS PROBABLY THE TOUGHEST DECISION I'VE EVER HAD TO MAKE, MISTER HOGAN.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. YOUR HEAD SAYS TONY STARK, BUT YOUR HEART WANTS THINGS JUST THE WAY THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE'RE LIVING IN A DIFFERENT WORLD NOW, SIR. I GUESS IT TOOK GOLIATH TO MAKE ME REALIZE THAT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, CASSIE? YOU SURE YOU'RE READY TO JUST WALK AWAY FROM ALL THE OTHER YOUNG AVENGERS? THIS IS A HUGE STEP YOU'RE TAKING HERE...
PEOPLE WANT US TO BE PROPERLY TRAINED, MISTER HOGAN. IT'S NOT THE NINETEEN-FORTIES ANYMORE. ALL I WANT IS TO DO MY JOB TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITIES.
GREAT. WELL, I'LL GET YOU DOWNSTAIRS FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS IN A SECOND OR TWO, BUT TONY STARK SAID HE WANTED TO WELCOME YOU GUYS PERSONALLY.
NOT LIKE THE BIG GUY TO KEEP PEOPLE WAITING...

UPSTAIRS:
PETER, YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A LUNATIC. WHY CAN'T WE JUST SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS THIS LIKE GROWN-UPS?
BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING TO DISCUSS, TONY. I'M LEAVING THE AVENGERS.
I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH WORKING FOR S.H.I.E.L.D.! BUT LOCKING HEROES IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE? THE CYBORG KILLING BILL FOSTER LIKE THAT?
C'MON, MAN! YOU'RE IN OVER YOUR HEAD!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? EVEN THOUGH THOR REACTED LIKE A POLICE OFFICER WOULD, DON'T FORGET THAT BILL FOSTER WAS A FRIEND OF MINE.
YOU REALLY THINK WE'RE GOING TO LET SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN AGAIN?
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO WITH THE UNREGISTERED SUPER-PEOPLE? LOCK THEM UP WITH REGULAR PRISONERS?
THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE, PETER. LOCK THEM UP IN RYKERS AND THEY'LL BE OUT AGAIN IN FIVE MINUTES.

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPRECIATE IS THAT THERE ARE FORCES WITHIN S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THE GOVERNMENT WHO WOULD LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO ABSOLUTELY OUTLAW ALL SUPERHUMANS!
THE COMPROMISE WE OFFERED THEM WAS REGULATING OUR BEHAVIOR! BECAUSE GOING BACK TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS WAS NEVER ON THE TABLE, PETER!
GET OUT OF MY WAY...
DON'T BE A FOOL! YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN JUST GO BACK TO YOUR OLD LIFE NOW THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE?
THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT YOU ANYMORE! WHAT ABOUT MAY? WHAT ABOUT MARY JANE?


AUNT MAY AND MARY JANE ARE AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE.
I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, PETER...
NOT
AS
DISAPPOINTED
AS
I
AM
IN
MYSELF--

AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS.
REINFORCED GLASS.
NOW...
STAND BACK, MISTER STARK! WE GOT HIM!
STOP! HOLD YOUR FIRE!
DAMMIT.

STARK, THIS IS MARIA HILL. I JUST GOT WORD THAT SPIDER-MAN HAS GONE ROGUE. REMAIN IN THE AREA AND WAIT FOR BACKUP. I'M PULLING IN EVERY AGENT ON THE GROUND.
MARIA, WAIT! I JUST NEED TO TALK TO HIM...
REQUEST DENIED, STARK. OVER AND OUT.
T-BOLTS DIVISION, I WANT FOURTEEN OPERATIVES ACTIVATED ON A SIXTY MINUTE TRIAL! I KNOW WE WERE SAVING THEM FOR THE FINAL BATTLE, BUT SITUATION IS CRITICAL!
INVISIBLE MODE ESSENTIAL AT ALL TIMES! OPERATION THUNDERBOLTS IS STILL TOP SECRET!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, COMMANDER HILL.
I KNEW WE COULDN'T TRUST THAT GUY.

HEADS-UP! PARKER'S BEEN SPOTTED RUNNING THROUGH A SEWER BETWEEN THIRD AND FOURTH! WORD FROM ABOVE SAYS MINIMUM FORCE.
ROGER THAT, BASE COMMAND.
WHAT THE--?

WELL, WELL, WELL. IF IT ISN'T LITTLE PETER SPIDER-MAN.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE LAW, PARKER? HOW DO IT FEEL TO SEE THE JESTER WEARING A SHERIFF'S BADGE?
MAN, YOU GOTTA SEE WHO WE'RE HANGING OUT WITH NOW, PETEY. JESTER AND ME, WE'RE FINALLY ON THE A-LIST!
J-JACK O'LANTERN?
HAKK!
OH, BABY! THIS IS JUST TOO AWESOME FOR WORDS!
UNGH!

YOU WANT FRIES WITH THAT, HONEY?!
UNKH!
THIS GIG SEEMED LIKE SUCH A BUM DEAL AT FIRST. WORKING FOR S.H.I.E.L.D., FORCED TO DO WHAT THEY SAID--
BUT WHEN WORD FROM THE TOP SAYS KICK THE CRAP OUTTA SPIDER-MAN... WELL, WHAT CAN WE DO? WE'RE ONLY OBEYING ORDERS, RIGHT?
I JUST WANTED TO DO THE RIGHT THING...
...DID YOU KNOW MY GIRLFRIEND DIED OF A BROKEN NECK?
C'MON, LET'S HAVE SOME FUN WHILE HE'S STILL STONED FROM MY GAS-BOMB...
LAY A FINGER ON THAT GUY AND YOU GET FIVE THOUSAND VOLTS, CREEP. YOU REALLY THINK WE'RE GONNA LET YOU FREAKS RUN AROUND WITHOUT A LEASH?
S.H.I.E.L.D. SUPPORT ARE ON THEIR WAY, BOYS. JUST CUFF HIM AND SIT TIGHT.
SPOILSPORTS.

WHAT THE HELL?
WE'VE LOST VISUAL.
WHO--?
WAIT A MINUTE. I KNOW YOU, SKULL-FACE GUY...
I KNOW YOU FROM WAY BACK, DON'T I?

120th STREET:
YOU THINK THEY SAW US?
EVEN IF THEY DID, WHAT'S THERE TO SEE? WE'RE NOT THE HUMAN TORCH AND THE INVISIBLE WOMAN ANYMORE. [redacted] MR. AND MRS. RYAN LANDAU AND WE'RE OUT FOR A MIDNIGHT STROLL.
I'M STILL ANNOYED NICK FURY COULDN'T FIND US ANY BROTHER AND SISTER IDENTITIES. PRETENDING WE'RE A MARRIED COUPLE IS THE CREEPIEST THING I'VE EVER DONE.
HOW DO YOU THINK I FEEL, SIS? YOU LOOK LIKE MY LAST DATE'S GRANDMOTHER...
STILL, IT LETS US GET OUT THERE TO HELP PEOPLE, AND THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT, RIGHT?
CAPTAIN AMERICA'S NEW H.Q.:
TAKE IT EASY, GUYS. IT'S ONLY JOHNNY AND SUE BACK FROM A MISSION.

YOU HEAR ABOUT CLOAK AND DAGGER?
NO, WHAT HAPPENED?
BUSTED OVER ■ QUEENS. WHICH MEANS OUR BAXTER BUILDING RAID NEEDS TO BE REVISED BECAUSE ▮ WAS COUNTING ON CLOAK FOR HIS *TELEPORTATION* SKILLS.
DAMN S.H.I.E.L.D. UNITS.
WE'VE LOST A MAN FOR EVERY ONE WE'VE *GAINED* THESE PAST FEW DAYS.
MAYBE *I* COULD RAID THE FF'S FILES, CAP. I COULD SHAPE-SHIFT INTO ONE OF THEIR STAFF AND WALTZ THROUGH SECURITY *NO PROBLEM.*
GOT A BIGGER JOB FOR YOU IN *ARIZONA*, HULKLING. LIKEWISE, THE INVISIBLE WOMAN ALREADY HAS AN EQUALLY PRESSING ASSIGNMENT.
WHAT'S BIGGER THAN STEALING THE PLANS FOR THEIR NEGATIVE ZONE PRISON? WE GET IN THERE AND FREE OUR PEOPLE, AND THIS STARTS LOOKING LIKE A *FAIR FIGHT* AGAIN.
WHY THE HELL DOES HE CALL IT *NUMBER FORTY-TWO* ANYWAY?
KNOWING TONY STARK, IT'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIS *MOTHER*...

GET ME A MEDIC!
NOW!
AFTER KEOWN

THE PUNISHER?
LINDA! JANE! GET OVER HERE!
OH, DEAR GOD. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
MULTIPLE FRACTURES AND SERIOUS BLOOD LOSS, THANKS TO TONY STARK AND HIS BUDDIES, DOCTOR FOSTER. HE SEEMS TO HAVE INGESTED SOME KIND OF HALLUCINOGEN AT THE SAME TIME...
IRON MAN? I THOUGHT SPIDEY WAS SO FAR UP HIS BUTT YOU COULDN'T SEE HIS FEET ANYMORE.
YEAH, WELL, HE'S ON OUR SIDE NOW, ULTRA-GIRL.
OUR SIDE? SINCE WHEN WERE YOU ON THIS TEAM, PUNISHER?
SINCE THE OTHER GUYS STARTED ENLISTING KNOWN THIEVES AND MULTIPLE KILLERS.

AM I THE ONLY [redacted] LAUGHING MY GUTS OUT AT THE IRONY HERE?
WHO DO YOU FIGURE'S BEEN [redacted]ING AROUND IN A SKI MASK AND COVERING YOUR BACKS THESE PAST FEW WEEKS? WAY I SEE IT, YOU PEOPLE NEED ALL THE HELP YOU CAN GET.
GREAT. WHY DON'T WE JUST CALL UP HANNIBAL LECTER AND ASK IF HE'S AVAILABLE TOO?
BECAUSE HANNIBAL LECTER HASN'T GOT THE BLACK OPS TRAINING TO GET YOU INTO THE BAXTER BUILDING.
OH, GOD. PLEASE TELL ME WE AREN'T SO FAR GONE THAT WE'RE SIGNING UP THE PUNISHER?
YOUR CALL, CAP. DO WE HAND THIS NUT OVER TO THE COPS OR DO WE HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY?
QUIET, CAGE.
I'M THINKING.

HELL'S KITCHEN:
THIS IS HORRIBLE.
THE PUBLIC'S BEHIND US, THE GOVERNMENT'S BEHIND US, CRIME IS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW. WHY ARE OUR OWN PEOPLE THE ONLY ONES CAUSING PROBLEMS, JENNIFER?
SOMETIMES I WISH WE'D NEVER GOTTEN INVOLVED. DO YOU EVER STOP TO THINK HOW MUCH EASIER THINGS WOULD BE IF WE HADN'T SPLICED THOR'S DNA WITH HANK PYM'S CYBER-TECH?
IF WE DIDN'T HAVE THIS BIG FINAL BATTLE PLANNED WITH ALL THOSE THUNDERBOLT LUNATICS?
2 TO GO LIVE AT THE EXCELSIOR
HANK WOULDN'T BE DOPED-UP ON ANTI-DEPRESSANTS AND MY DARLING SUE WOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT...
MAYBE NOT. BUT PUBLIC OPINION WOULD HAVE FORCED S.H.I.E.L.D. TO BRING DOWN EVERY SUPER HERO IN AMERICA.
PEOPLE WERE SICK OF SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD KIDS BLOWING UP BUILDINGS, REED.
YOU GUYS GAVE US ALL A FUTURE.

RYKER'S ISLAND PENITENTIARY:
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND WHY WE'RE DOING THIS, DAREDEVIL. WE DON'T TAKE ANY PLEASURE IN HUNTING DOWN OUR FRIENDS.
WE'RE BACKING THESE REFORMS BECAUSE THE ONLY OTHER OPTION IS A COMPLETE BAN ON ALL SUPER HEROES. AND NOBODY WANTS THAT TO HAPPEN, RIGHT?
GATEWAY IS ACTIVE! PROCEEDING THROUGH!
OUR BIG IDEA IS FIFTY SUPER-TEAMS SPREAD OVER ALL FIFTY STATES, EACH ONE LICENSED AND ACCOUNTABLE TO THE TAXPAYER.
IT'S THE NEXT STAGE IN SUPERHUMAN EVOLUTION: A FEDERAL FORCE FROM COAST-TO-COAST.
THE NEGATIVE ZONE:
WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR MONTHS, CREATING NEW SUPER HEROES AND REVAMPING ANYONE WHO WANTS TO JOIN US.
NATURALLY, YOU'D BE AT THE TOP OF OUR LIST IF YOU WERE INTERESTED. YOU COULD EVEN HAVE YOUR OWN TEAM.

NOBODY WANTS TO PUT YOU IN JAIL.

WHAT DO YOU SAY? CAN WE TALK?
ACTUALLY, HE'S BARELY SAID A WORD SINCE WE BROUGHT HIM IN, MISTER STARK. BUT WE FOUND THIS SILVER DOLLAR UNDER HIS TONGUE.
HE SAID HE'S BEEN SAVING IT FOR YOU.
A SILVER DOLLAR? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
GUESS THAT'S THIRTY-ONE PIECES OF SILVER YOU'VE GOT NOW, HUH?
SLEEP WELL, JUDAS.
TO BE CONTINUED...